



\*Minutes subject to approval by the NC Courts Commission at the next meeting

The North Carolina Courts Commission met on Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 10:00 AM at the UNC School of Government (400 South Rd, Chapel Hill, NC).

### **Call to Order**

The Chair, Rep. Joe John, called the meeting to order, welcomed members of the Commission as well as members of the public present, and laid forth the agenda for the meeting.

### **Report on North Carolina Crime Lab**

Director John Byrd of the North Carolina Crime Lab gave a PowerPoint presentation on the current state of the Crime Lab. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to make a recommendation to the General Assembly to appropriate \$1.2 million in recurring funds to the NC Crime Lab to fund 12 full-time scientists.

### **Pretrial Release for Criminal Defendants**

The Hon. Judge Athena Brooks, Chair of the NC Courts Commission Subcommittee on Pretrial Release, gave a presentation summarizing the previous Subcommittee on Pretrial Release meetings.

Tarrah Callahan, Executive Director of Conservatives for Criminal Justice Reform, gave a PowerPoint presentation on data related to Pretrial Release. The presentation specifically cited the need for better data collection. Conservatives for Criminal Justice Reform favors improving the current pretrial release system.

Robert Kemp, Pitt County Public Defender and member of the NC Courts Commission, gave a presentation on the findings of the NC Chief Justice's Equal Access to Justice Commission. Tarrah Callahan joined him for part of the presentation and spoke about the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee.

### **Presentation on Sex Offender Registry**

Paul Dubbeling, Principal at P.M. Dubbeling, PLLC, gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Sex Offender Risk and Recidivism." A discussion followed regarding the NC Courts Commission 2017 recommendation of NC House Bill 123, "Registration Discretionary for Sexual Battery."

### **Adjournment and Future Commission Meetings**

Rep. John adjourned the meeting with the tentative plan to reconvene on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.